

CLAIMS

1. A method for dynamically generating a distributed knowledge base within a computer system that is integrated with existing data, comprising:

- receiving indications of data elements from the existing data and storing references to the indicated data elements;
- using the stored references to the indicated data elements of existing data to register a plurality of users and experts;
- receiving a request from one of the registered users to submit a question;
- determining an expert to answer the question from the registered experts;
- forwarding the question to the determined expert;
- receiving an indication of an answer from the determined expert; and
- storing the indicated answer with the submitted question so that users other than the user from whom the request was received can access the question and indicated answer.